

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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INFO AMBMBASSY BELIZE CITY 031

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AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

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TAGS: AORG, UNDP, EAID

SUBJECT: UNDP 17TH GC - COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEW AND APPROVAL FOR
LATIN AMERICA

1. SUMMARY: UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL JANUARY 16 APPROVED COUNTRY PROGRAMS FOR BELIZE, CARIBBEAN, NICARAGUA, SURINAM, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR LATIN AMERICA VALDES SUMMARIZED PROGRESS IN COUNTRY PROGRAMMING IN REGION DURING FIRST UNDP PROGRAMMING CYCLE INCLUDING EXPANDED DONOR COORDINATION, AND CITED REGION'S HIGH ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. TEN DELEGATIONS INTERVENED IN SUPPORT OF CP'S END SUMMARY.

2. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR LATIN AMERICA VALDES IN INTRODUCTORY REMARKS NOTED THAT LAST TWO YEARS HAD SEEN PREPARATION CP'S FOR 26 LA NATIONAL PROGRAMS TOGETHER WITH CARIBBEANPROGRAM, FOR A TOTAL IPF FOR 1972-76 PERIOD OF \$280 MILLION. COMMENDED GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED FOR THEIR INTEREST AND COOPERATION THROUGHOUT PROGRAMMING PROCESS THIS CYCLE

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WHICH HAD PROVIDED WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE WHICH CAN BE UTILIZED

NEXT PROGRAMMING CYCLE. REGION HAS DEMONSTRATED A REMARKABLY HIGH ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY, ROLE OF RES REP AS UN "TEAM". LEADER AT COUNTRY LEVEL HAS BEEN CONSOLIDATED, CONSULTATIVE GROUPS OF DONOR INSTITUTIONS AND COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED, AND EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO IMPROVE BOTH PROJECT FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION. RE THE FIVE PROGRAMS WITH WHICH THIS ROUND IS CONCLUDING, IN EACH CASE HIGHLY SELECTIVE PROCESS WAS NECESSARY IN ASSIGNING PRIORITIES FOR UNDP ASSISTANCE DUE TO LIMITED FUNDS AVAILABLE. CONCERTED EFFORT MADE TO ENSURE FULL COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN UNDP PROGRAMS AND THOSE OF OTHER MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL DONORS. NICARAGUA GIVEN FUNDS FROM PROGRAM RESERVE IN ADDITION TO IPF TO EXPEDITE RECOVERY FROM EFFECTS OF 1972 EARTHQUAKE. IN CASE OF CARIBBEAN CP, WHERE ONLY TWO OF TWELVE ISLANDS AND ISLAND GROUPINGS HAD NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS, PRIORITIES WERE ESTABLISHED BASED ON GOVERNMENTS' DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND IPF FUNDS DISTRIBUTED TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PREVIOUS COMMITMENT AND ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY. VALDES OBSERVED THAT WHILE THE EXPERIENCE WITH COUNTRY PROGRAMMING IN LATIN AMERICA GENERALLY FAVORABLE, CERTAIN SHORTCOMINGS DETECTED WHICH UNDP SEEKING TO REMEDY. FOR EXAMPLE, SOMETIMES TOO NARROW SECTORAL APPROACH CAN LIMIT POSSIBLE IMPACT OF PROGRAM. UNDP CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING STUDY OF CONSTRAINTS ON SECTORAL APPROACH, CONCURRENTLY WITH ECLE, FOR LATIN AMERICAN AREA. OVERLY RIGID APPROACH TO COUNTERPART OBLIGATIONS ALSO MIGHT HINDER DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. VALDES ALSO SUPPORTED SUGGESTIONS ADVANCED IN PREVIOUS GC SESSIONS IN FAVOR OF CARRY-OVERS OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE BALANCES FROM PRESENT PROGRAMMING CYCLE TO THE NEXT, AND ROLLING IPF'S WITH CONTINUOUS PROGRAMMING, AND ASKED FOR FURTHER GC GUIDANCE ON THESE QUESTIONS. HE ALSO ASSURED GC THAT HIGH PRIORITY BEING GIVEN TO REGIONAL PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE RELATING TO ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

3. COUNTRY INTERVENTIONS-- TEN DELEGATIONS INTERVENED. MOST COMMENTS BRIEF AND SUPPORTIVE. KEY ISSUES INCLUDED SECTORAL PRIORITIES, EVALUATION AND PHASE-OUT OF MARGINAL PROJECTS AND DONOR COORDINATION. IRAN SUGGESTED THAT MORE EMPHASIS BE PLACED ON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT. US DELEGATION (VAN DYKE) NOTED THAT FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES GENERALLY

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HAD IMPROVED, AND THAT DONOR COORDINATION HAS BEEN EXPANDED. ALSO NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE NUMBER OF RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES IN THE AREA WAS BEING INCREASED AND EXISTING RES REPS' STAFFS WERE BEING STRENGTHENED. URGED COORDINATION OF TRAINING SCHEDULES WITH AVAILABILITY OF COUNTERPART PROJECT PERSONNEL, AND HOPED THAT TRAINING WOULD BE GIVEN ONLY IN AREAS WHERE REAL DOMESTIC EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES EXIST. RECOMMENDED THAT UNDP ASSISTANCE TO CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK BE CONTINUED.

ASKED FOR CLOSER SCRUTINY OF DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES IN CASE OF NICARAGUA CP AS WELL AS CONTINUING CAREFUL DONOR COORDINATION. CUBA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND OTHERS COMMENDED VALDES FOR HIS SUMMARY COMMENTS ON COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXPERIENCE IN LATIN AMERICA DURING FIRST PROGRAMMING CYCLE. VALDES THANKED DELEGATES FOR THEIR COMMENTS AND GAVE HIS ASSURANCE THAT THEIR SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT DURING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION. SWISS, PERHAPS PROMPTED BY VALDES' PREVIOUS SUMMARY COMMENTS ON PROGRAMMING PROCESS AND HIS REQUEST FOR GC SUGGESTIONS, CALLED FOR

IN-DEPTH STUDY BY UNDP ADMINISTRATION OF ENTIRE CP PROCESS AND ASKED FOR SUBMISSION RESULT AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT TO JUNE 1975 GC. UNDP DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR PANEL WELCOMED THIS SUGGESTION. HE REPORTED

ASSESSMENT ALREADY IN PROGRESS AND RESULTS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO JUNE 1975 GC. ALSO SAID UNDP ADMINISTRATION WOULD MAKE SUGGESTIONS TO JUNE 1974 GC CONCERNING NATURE AND DIMENSIONS THIS REPORT.

4. ALL FIVE CP'S APPROVED AT JANUARY 16 PLENARY SESSION. US MISSION FIELD ANALYSES OF CP'S PARTICULARLY USEFUL. IT IS HOPED THAT US MISSIONS WILL ENCOURAGE UNDP AND RECIPIENT COUNTRIES TO UNDERTAKE THOROUGH SUBSTANTIVE ANNUAL REVIEWS EACH CP AND THAT NEXT CERP 0008 FROM THESE COUNTRIES WILL TREAT PROGRESS TOWARD TRIPARTITE EVALUATION TO EXTENT POSSIBLE.
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